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13 December 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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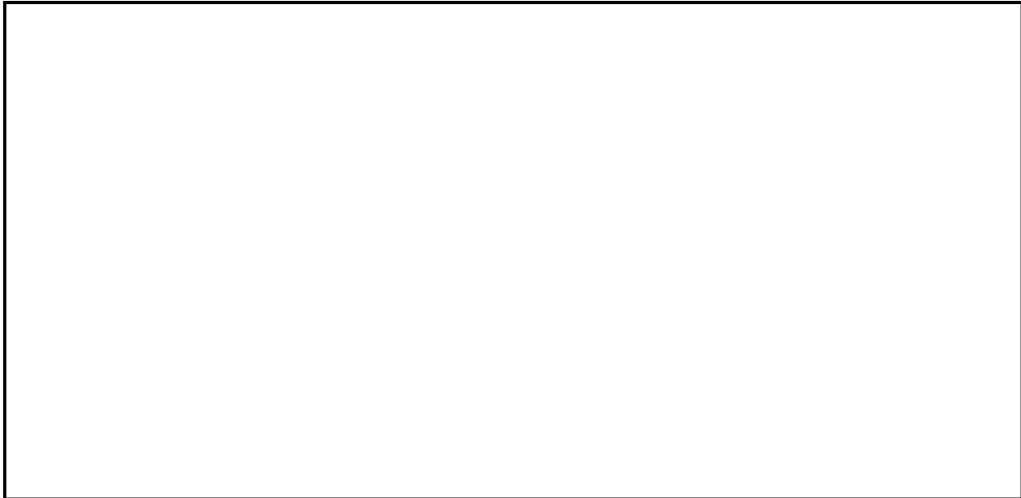
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France - Common Market: [Paris will block EEC agreement on participation in the Kennedy Round of tariff negotiations if the agricultural issues now being discussed in Brussels are not settled, a ranking French Foreign Ministry official has told the US Embassy in Paris.]

[Although the statement is part of the "war of nerves" between Paris and Bonn, the French official seemed genuinely worried that failure to reach agreement by the end of the year might again cause De Gaulle to "break some china."]

[The French expected Germany to fight hard to extract concessions from them on the Kennedy Round before agreeing on agricultural measures. Now Paris is concerned that Bonn is raising serious new substantive difficulties about the agricultural issues themselves.]

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Greece: Former Premier Karamanlis' abrupt resignation as leader of the National Radical Union and his simultaneous departure from Greece early this week have improved Premier Papandreu's prospects for winning the vote of confidence scheduled for 18 December.

Enough ERE deputies may now defect to the Center Union government to give it a majority. If Papandreu is convinced that such defectors would work sincerely for the Center Union government, he might drop his demands for early new elections. If not, he may press for elections in the hope of winning a secure parliamentary majority of his own.

The ERE has chosen former Vice Premier Kanellopoulos as its new leader, but with the party in opposition and with its founder out of the country, it may eventually fragment.

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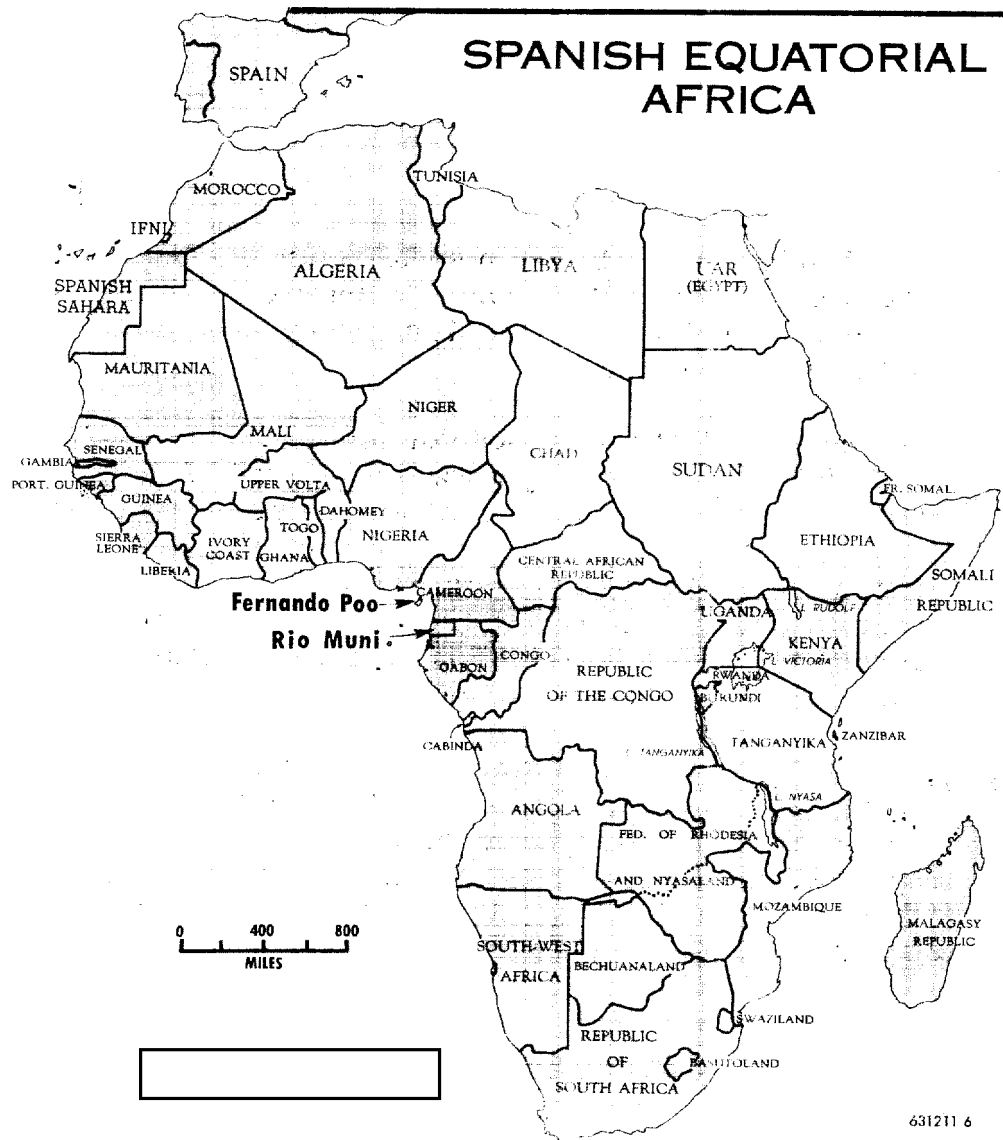
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Middle East Oil: The dispute between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the major international oil companies has considerably worsened.

Last week OPEC turned down an offer by the companies to go part way toward meeting OPEC demands for higher royalties. The widespread publicity given this action has made compromise far more difficult than it had been. Iran, which desires a moderate line in the negotiations, is increasingly reluctant to dissociate itself from the less flexible position of the other OPEC members.

OPEC is scheduled to meet again in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 24 December. The meeting is likely to produce recommendations for united action by OPEC member countries against the companies.

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NOTES

Arab States - Israel: [Nasir claims there is no chance of a unified Arab plan to counter Israel's program for diverting the Jordan River waters early next year. Arab military chiefs have been meeting in Cairo for this purpose, but there are no reports that they have reached any agreement.]

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Cuba-Chile: [Cuba has approached Chile on the possibility of purchasing up to 100,000 tons of nitrates for hard currency. The USSR has supplied more than 300,000 tons of fertilizers to Cuba this year but, in view of its own fertilizer needs, it may be reluctant to supply all Cuba will need next year for its intensified agricultural program. The US Embassy points out that the Cubans could generate sufficient pressures in Chile to make it difficult for the government to turn down the sale.]

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Spain-Africa: The 15 December plebiscite on local autonomy in Spanish Equatorial Africa will provide no more than a beginning step toward autonomy for Fernando Poo and Rio Muni. It may head off attacks in the UN on Spain's colonial policy, but the absence of legal provisions for real political autonomy could foster agitation by native nationalist elements who have been increasingly active since last summer. Several hundred of them recently returned from exile in neighboring countries to participate in the plebiscite in the hope of assuming positions of influence under the promised autonomy.

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